

Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors * District Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 @ 4:30 pm
Florida Strawberry Growers Association
13138 Lewis Gallagher Road
Dover, Florida 33527



AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Introduce Board Members and the Public – *Public Comment*
Minutes of December 17, 2021 Board Meeting – *Chairman Kathy Eckdahl*
Minutes of December 29, 2021 Special Meeting – *Chairman Kathy Eckdahl*
Financial Report - *Treasurer Sonja Brookins*
NRCS District/Area /State Report – *Leslie Diaz-Alvarez, District Conservationist and Juan Hernandez, State Conservationist*
FDACS Update - *Matt Warren, Environmental Manager (Via Zoom)*
SWFWMD Farms Program – *Betty Jo Tompkins for SWFWMD staff*
Agribusiness Development Report - *Simon Bollin, Agribusiness Development Manager*
Request for Non-Agenda Items – *Chairman Kathy Eckdahl*

BUSINESS

- SB 1078 / Legislative Action taken by the Florida House and Senate during 2022 session.
- EPA Proposal to remove strawberries from the Thiram (currently an approved fungicide) label effective this upcoming season.
- Unfunded Cooperative Agreement Between NRCS and HSWCD
 - *2022 local Working Group Meeting – 3:00 – 5:30 pm, Tuesday, November 29, 2022 – Florida Strawberry Growers Association, 13138 Lewis Gallagher Road.
- AFCD – Area 4 meeting scheduled for June 18, 2022 at Florida Strawberry Growers Association, 13138 Lewis Gallagher Road.
 - *Recommendation: HSWCD cover the cost of morning refreshments and lunch.
 - *Meeting start at 9am with AFCD presentation.
- Education Programs
 - *Ag Venture – HSWCD will participate in Spring 2022 Ag Venture at Florida State Fairgrounds on April 19, 21, and 22 with a program on pollinators for 320 third grade students.
 - *Poster Contest – 2022 NACD contest is underway with the theme “Healthy Soil, Healthy Life”. Same – Arrangement with Hillsborough County Fair: 1) Every student will receive a free ticket to the 2022 Fair scheduled for November 3 – 13. 2) All posters will be displayed during the Fair. 3) All entrants will receive a certificate with their poster featured. 4) All winners will receive cash awards and advance to Area competition.
 - *Summer Poster Contest – HSWCD will again sponsor a summer poster contest with same arrangement with The County Fair. Focus will be on working with summer parks programs. Theme to be announced in May,
 - *Speech Contest – Currently seeking entrants from public, private, parochial and home school students. Theme will be the same as poster contest.

*Land Judging – Because of COVID restrictions, any school could go directly to the 2022 state competition. Plans to bring back land judging competition for 2022 – 2023 school year.

* Envirothon – Plans underway to bring back Envirothon for 2022 – 2023 school year.

➤ Director’s Report, review of Overall Programs – Betty Jo Tompkins

*Florida State Fair -, HSWCD created, designed and built multi-faceted 1,800 square foot exhibit featured in the center of the Ag Hall of Fame Building for the 2022 Florida State Fair. The centerpiece of the exhibit was a 24 foot wide, 8 foot high mural painted by students with the theme: “Bees, Bats, Birds, Butterflies....Our Perfect Pollinators” In addition, the exhibit included art stations where over 1,500 fairgoers colored bee prints with 24 different messages, such as: Bee Kind; Bee Grateful; Bee Awesome, etc. Fairgoers also painted designs on an assortment of rain barrels and viewed the winning rain barrels from the HSWCD sponsored Hillsborough County Fair contest. Other features in the exhibit included HSWCD programs, projects and activities; USDA educational displays; an EPC exhibit; Florida A & M exhibit; and Farm Bureau display among others. Student artists dressed for the Opening Day Fresh From Florida breakfast in costumes representing pollinators, along with the “plastic pig” and the City of Tampa’s “plastic bag monster”. Supervisors and staff participated in the FFF Breakfast, Governor’s Lunch, Woman of the Year in Agriculture Luncheon, Ag Hall of Fame and Champion of Champions program.

*Florida Strawberry Festival – HSWCD had exhibit in the Grimes Building at the 2022 Festival with Supervisors and staff participating in Farm Credit Agricultural Breakfast and Grand Parade Luncheon.

*Legislative Activity – HSWCD staff prepared over 100 informational packages to send to members of the Florida Legislature regarding conservation district bills. Director Tompkins traveled to Tallahassee on multiple occasions to present before legislative committees and visit offices. Presentations are recorded and available to view through official House and Senate sites.

*NACD Annual Meeting – Director Tompkins did not attend the 2022 meeting in Orlando as this conflicted directly with legislative presentations and priority was to attempt to influence legislation. HSWCD had planned two excellent tours (one to state Fair and the other to strawberry Industry), both of which were canceled by NACD over COVID concerns, along with all other tours. 2023 Meeting has been scheduled for New Orleans

*Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge tabloid – HSWCD staff wrote articles and assisted in securing ads for 2022 tabloid, which will be 28 full color pages, with publication on Sunday, April 24 in the Tampa Bay Times, in TBT that week and for distribution throughout the year at fairs and festivals. The tabloid features dates and information on events through March 2023. The tabloid costs were almost 100% covered by advertisers (total HSWCD expense estimated at under \$500.00), with a number of new partners signing up this year.

*Hillsborough 100 Kickoff Luncheon – The 2022 Luncheon will be held at noon, April 27 at the Regent. Invited are individuals and groups that have been instrumental in supporting HSWCD programs this past year. Event will include lunch, awards, gift bags for everyone and door prizes. Supervisors are encouraged to bring friends and associates. Action Items: 1) Provide an award to John and Kay Sullivan for providing free office space in Brandon for HSWCD for the past two years; 2) Award \$1,000. Scholarship to Katie Tyson, our 2022 Student Conservationist of the Year.

*Operation Pollination –New program in conjunction with Rotary International to encourage and promote positive pollinator projects to combat serious losses of pollinators. Program will be for two-year period (from April 2022 through April 2024). HSWCD and Rotary District 6890 will be the first in the southern United States to ad

opt the program. Program is open to businesses, churches, civic clubs, educational institutions, families, governmental entities, individuals and youth groups, among others. Receiving very positive responses thus far.

*HSWCD Strawberry U-Pick – Held a strawberry u-pick on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at Fancy Farms from 9 am – 3pm. Secured donated plastic clamshells, volunteers, etc. Raised \$9,000.00.

*Spring Ag Tour – Registration is open for spring Ag Tour for Friday, April 22, 2022 with several stops.

*Clean Air Fair – HSWCD will be exhibiting at the May 5, 2022 Clean Air Fair in downtown Tampa sponsored by Hillsborough environmental Protection Commission,

*AFCD – Participated in legislative task force and quarterly meetings.

*FCDEA – Participated in monthly meetings and special projects.

*Farm Bureau – Spoke on HSWCD programs before Farm Bureau Board – April 11, 2022.

*Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association – Participated in meetings and presented HSWCD information.

*Hillsborough County Fair – Attended Board meetings and worked with Fair manager on HSWCD plans for Fair. Action Items: 1) Fair would like to provide HSWCD with an entire tent to use for all HSWCD activities, including expanded youth plant show, expanded rain barrel contest, Great Plant Auction, poster exhibit, etc.

*Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation – Participated in Board meetings, events, etc.

*Center Place Board – participated in Board meetings, events, etc.

*Spoke on HSWCD on radio show.

*Rotary ECO and Rotary ESRAG – Presented information on HSWCD programs, projects and activities.

*Other – Greater Plant City Chamber, Greater Brandon Chamber, Republican Executive Committee-

- Public Correspondence, Upcoming Events, Announcements
- Next Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m. – June 8,2022
- Adjournment
- Dinner